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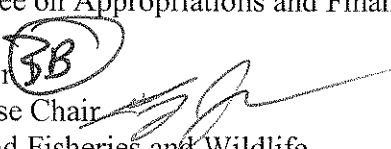
STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Jeremy Fischer, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Bruce Bryant, Senate Chair 
Representative Troy Jackson, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

DATE: March 17, 2008

SUBJ: Recommendations on the Governor's change package and changes to our
recommendations for the Governor's FY 08-09 Supplemental Budget (LD 2173)

This memo replaces in its entirety our memo to you dated March 13, 2008.

The committee met earlier today and voted to make the following recommendations:

1. Governor's Change Package recommendations

- Except for Part YY-2, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife voted unanimously (9-0) to support all the measures contained in the Governor's change package. The committee voted to support Part YY-2 on a divided vote of 7-2.

2. Recommendations for additions to the budget.

The committee voted unanimously (9-0) to include the following items in the budget.

- It has recently come to our attention that the Fisheries & Hatcheries Division of the department will have an unanticipated shortfall in its All Other line of \$79,000 in FY 08. We recommend that this amount be transferred from the department's carrying account to the division's All Other line to avoid a severe reduction in hatchery operations.

- Likewise, the Bureau of the Warden Service has identified an unanticipated shortfall in its All Other line of \$270,000 for FY 08. We recommend that this amount be transferred from the department's carrying account to avoid a substantial negative impact on the ability of the warden service to continue operations that are crucial to public safety and wildlife management.

3. Changes to the committee's February 15, 2008, response to the \$99 million reduction exercise

The committee voted unanimously (9-0) to make the following changes to its recommendations for the \$99 million reduction exercise contained in our memorandum to you dated February 15, 2008.

- On page 3 of our memorandum (the last two bullet points) we recommended maintaining current vacancies in 3 District Game Warden Services positions and 1 Field Sergeant position (savings of \$353,747 plus an \$80,000 savings in the All Other line). After additional consideration, we recommend maintaining only 2 of these current District Game Warden vacancies. We make this recommendation because the funding sources for one District Warden position and the Field Sergeant position are funded through dedicated revenues or federal funds.
- On page 3 of our memorandum (the second to the last full paragraph), we recommend transferring \$14,573 from the savings we identified in that memorandum to the All Other line within the Warden Service for on-going funding for emergency pagers for wardens in the field. We understand that this transfer is no longer needed and we wish to remove it from consideration.

The committee continues to strongly support the remainder of the recommendations contained in our February 15th memorandum.

3. Sen. Nutting's position reduction proposal

The committee discussed Sen. Nutting's proposal as it pertains to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (elimination of the Assistant to the Commissioner Public Information position and the Supervisor of Land Acquisition and Development position) and voted 10-0 to reject that proposal. The committee is strongly opposed to either an elimination of those positions or a combination of duties into one position. We are very confident that the department's staffing resources have been reduced to the lowest levels possible without seriously jeopardizing the department's ability to carryout its mission.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us or our staff (Curtis Bentley 287-1670).

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
 Maureen Dawson, Principal Analyst, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
 Suzanne Roy, Analyst, Office of Fiscal and Program Review